**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A method of treating a nitric oxide (NO) associated disorder in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) variant or VEGF receptor agonist, wherein the variant or agonist is selective for a KDR receptor.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said disorder is hypertension, diabetes, angina, thrombosis, heart failure or atherosclerosis.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said VEGF comprises recombinant human VEGF.

4. (cancelled)

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said VEGF receptor agonist comprises a KDR receptor antibody.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein said KDR receptor antibody comprises a chimeric antibody.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein said KDR receptor antibody comprises a human antibody.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said VEGF is administered to said mammal by intravenous infusion.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said effective amount of VEGF or VEGF receptor agonist enhances nitric oxide production in said mammal.

11. (withdrawn) A method of protecting a mammal from NO associated pathologic conditions, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of VEGF or VEGF receptor agonist.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein said effective amount of VEGF or VEGF receptor agonist enhances nitric oxide production in said mammal.

13. (withdrawn) A method of reducing restenosis in a mammal, comprising administering to mammal undergoing or having undergone angioplasty an effective amount of VEGF or VEGF receptor agonist to up-regulate eNOS expression.

14. (currently amended) A method of stimulating sustained production of endogenous NO in an endothelial cell, comprising exposing the endothelial cell to an effective amount of a VEGF receptor agonist, wherein the agonist is selective for a KDR receptor, and whereby the endothelial NO synthase (eNOS) in the endothelial cell is up-regulated.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the VEGF receptor agonist is a VEGF variant having selective binding affinity for KDR receptor.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one or more amino acid substitutions at or between positions 17 to 25 of the native VEGF sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4).

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein in VEGF variant comprises at least the following amino acid substitutions: MI8E, Y2IL, Q22R and Y25S.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one or more amino acid substitutions at or between positions 63 to 66 of the native VEGF sequence.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the VEGF variant comprises at least the following amino acid substitutions: D63S, G65M, L66R.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the VEGF receptor agonist is a KDR receptor antibody.

21. (new) The method of claim 14 wherein the disorder is hypertension, angina, thrombosis, heart failure, or atherosclerosis.